

„Tristan“-Romane: Zur spätmittelalterlichen Rezeption von Gottfrieds „Tristan“ in den böhmischen Ländern

Abstract

The story of the immortal love of Tristan and Izolda was one of the most popular materials of the European Middle Ages. While Gottfried's "Tristan" was very popular from the beginning of philological research, the story was different with his successors. This was largely related to the perception of epigonal authors, who – seen through the eyes of a (post) modern literary scholar – did not bring many new ideas to the table and did not achieve the artistic qualities of their model. In the Bohemian lands, the Tristan theme hugely circulated since 13th century (in addition to German-written texts, we record an anonymous novel in Old Czech, dated in the 14th century). However, the research purposefully ignored these literary monuments for a long time. That is to be seen as a consequence of the (post) revivalist perception of Czech culture later supported by the ideology of real socialism, in which texts not written in the "national" language did not support the feeling of Czech patriotism. The re-poemed compositions of German court epics into Czech logically found themselves on the fringes of interest. After 1989, the situation did not change dramatically, as university pragmatism did not allow for a more significant development of marginal disciplines, a category to which medieval studies undoubtedly belongs. Another obstacle in researching into this area is the fact that knowledge of German is no longer one of the basic skills of a Czech literary scholar, not to mention knowledge of older developmental stages. Without this knowledge, however, it is impossible to uncover and interpret intertextual relationships. The aim of this study is, therefore, to fill the gap and look at the Tristan material as part of the European (not national) cultural tradition, which must, therefore, be the subject of research into intercultural medieval studies. The comparative study is based on the most current findings of literary (especially German and Anglophone) medieval studies and applied forms of the theory of intertextuality. The core is the study of

narratological and thematic aspects in German-written models and, subsequently, in the old Czech text.